

Urges Population Curb, Better Pollution Control

By Mel Ruder

Ed. Note: The following paragraphs are intended to be a news story of an appearance of a University teacher, who is a center of some controversy. A news story reports what a speaker says, and is not an editorial.

Comparatively small attendance was on hand Friday at 8 p.m. for the talk on pollution by Dr. C. C. Gordon, associate professor of botany at the University of Montana.

His talk sponsored by Whitefish Jaycees took place at the new Whitefish Elementary School and attracted 35 persons. Story of his coming was carried page 1 in both Whitefish and Kalispell newspapers. Comparatively few Jaycees were present.

Dr. Gordon's talk was entitled "Environmental Degradation." He talked for over an hour, covered a wide range. The following paragraphs provide a resume.

Emphasis was on the No. 1 problem of the world, overpopulation.

Concluding remarks of his speech are of special interest to the Flathead and concerned the Anaconda Aluminum Co.

MORE THAN LEGAL

He said that Anaconda Aluminum Co. "is your problem." He added: "They are breaking the law," and he referred to four times more fluoride

vegetables and have them analyzed. "This is the game I'm going to play, I'm going to spend \$1,000 on that." (Apparently he has a grant.)

He said there wasn't a water pollution problem, and that a family could spend \$25 or \$30 to have vegetables from their gardens analyzed.

TO TEST TEETH

One spectator, who lives east of Columbia Falls, gave him some cow's teeth, which the scientist said would be analyzed.

Asking about pollution from lumber mills, he replied: "There's some particulate matter, but I wouldn't worry. They have one more year (to comply with the law.)"

Earlier in his speech he referred to "the two stinking wigwam burners" at Bonner, and "it only takes \$10,000 a burner to clean it up."

His talk had such phrases as: "If we are going to live as human beings we have to fight for each other."

There was considerable mention of the Waldorf Hoerner plant in Missoula, where he said until July 1, the company was being given the opportunity to see what they would do. He showed a slide of a St. Regis Co. pulp plant in Alberta that he said had effective pollution controls in contrast to the Waldorf Hoerner Missoula

the Army's poison gas disposal — it costs more to dispose of than to make — and of the accidental Utah sheep destruction.

Dr. Gordon said there were poisons so strong that one drop would kill an individual in one or two seconds, and a new strain where a few ounces would kill 60 million people.

He felt the world's major problem was overpopulation, and that it was absolutely necessary to cut down the birthrate. Legalized abortion is needed, and he felt the Catholic Church must change its views.

Dr. Gordon continued that we can't feed India, and for that matter India was doomed.

He emphasized: "Let's cut down the population. Let's talk about it. Read about it. Do something about it."

DESTRUCTIVE CHEMICALS

He told of chemicals used to clean irrigation ditches that would destroy a rubber glove in 20 minutes. These chemicals went downstream into our rivers. Answer he said are concrete lined irrigation ditches which are more expensive. He stated: "We should treat water with tender loving care."

Reference was made to arsenic and lead wastes being dumped by the mining industry into Great Slave Lake, and the industrial polluting of Great Bear Lake. He feels that the

pressed into compact mountains of steel and not litter on stream banks.

He's against DDT and this includes fly sprays used in homes.

VARIOUS COMMENTS

His statements included that man is a product of his environment.

emission than the law allows.

Dr. Gordon continued that Teakettle Mountain (vegetation) "is going to die as a result of fluorides."

He continued little information is known about effects of fluorides on humans, but that in this respect we aren't so different from animals. Difference is that animals feed on vegetation and a deer for example that lived on Teakettle Mountain would stay in that area. "We don't." He mentioned fluorides being used to preserve wines in Spain. Humans were found with pitted skulls.

Dr. Gordon said that fluoride concentrations would come in leaves and grasses and not so much in fruits.

He continued that fluorides leave a fingerprint slowly, and asked: "Who is breaking the law? Just criminals? Just hippies?"

Then he announced: "We will start a full study in Columbia Falls this summer and continue it next spring."

DIRTY GAME

He also commented: "I play a dirty game, but they play a dirty game with you."

He added that Anaconda wasn't any different than Kaiser north of Spokane, and continued that Anaconda was the 72nd largest corporation in the United States, "and they must clean up," and it will cost a lot of money.

Previously, the botany professor mentioned vegetable gardens near East Helena's smelter having higher toxic levels than the standards of the U. S. Food and Drug Administration.

He told of feeding these vegetables to rabbits, and of the increase in lead and cadmium in liver and kidney tissues up to 30 times. Then he mentioned a piece of property with a vegetable garden having been purchased for \$5,000 being sold to the company for \$44,000.

A man in the audience asked Dr. Gordon about Anaconda Aluminum Co. having spent, and in process of spending millions of dollars for pollution control.

The botanist replied: "I don't know about Anaconda Aluminum Co."

(Ed. Note: He has been invited to the plant in past years.)

EXPLOITERS

Dr. Gordon continued that oil companies spending only 1/50 of one per cent for pollution control. He characterized American oil industry as "How much do you steal from Peru?" "How can you be a good neighbor and gut their land so (meaning Canada)?"

As to his studies in the Flathead concerning air pollution at Anaconda Aluminum Co., Dr. Gordon stated he would demand the law be obeyed and that outside pressures would see to it.

He said he would collect

operation.

His view is that the Missoula plant overproduces without regard for people or the environment, and attempted to justify their action by constantly pointing to a \$4½ million annual payroll.

MAD RANCHERS

There was also mention of ranchers "getting mad" (they do that when you bother their cows) and finally getting something done about the Garrison fluorides.

He told of the coming battle over sulfur dioxide standards "every smelter in the state will fight this," and appealed for support for the State Board of Health that only has a \$125,000 budget.

He told of being in Washington, D. C. in connection with

oceans are more fragile than the land as regards dangers of pollution.

He referred to woods waste in the United States as compared to Europe and Japan, of the dangers of strip mining and failure of the legislature to pass adequate controls for saving the land's surface.

In response to a question of how pollution control can be achieved, Dr. Gordon stated it would cost a lot of money. He felt that the answer is a less affluent society. He suggested that perhaps workmen at Bonner should settle for less of a wage increase in return for company expenditure for pollution control. (His phrasing was somewhat different.)

Dr. Gordon felt there should be non-returnable beer bottles; car, bodies should be com-